PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXXII.

BELLS OF VICTORY.

The Archbishop of Canterbury.

London, Nov., 13.

The victory in Egypt is assuredly an occasion for thanksgiving. As we pray for God's blessing on our cause, so let us give thanks for the signal success recently granted our arms. Church bells, silent so long, will call us to thanksgiving, fresh resolve and renewed prayer for God's blessing on our country, our allies and the cause we serve.

STALINGRAD LIVES.

Stalingrad's defence is the most difficult in the entire history of warfare, says an article in *Soviet War News*. The city stretches in a narrow strip along the Volga pressed close to its waters. The defenders have not a single yard of space in which they can manoeuvre freely. So they have become a part of Stalingrad's very earth.

As a ferry carries you across the river to Stalingrad, you begin to realise that this is no ordinary sector of the front and that here is something no human eyes have seen, except at Stalingrad, something the like of which has never been described by military writers.

Truck loads of shells, mines and cartridges move steadily day and night towards the quay on the opposite bank. Ferry-boats and other craft ply incessantly to the city with supplies. Traffic is most busy at nightfall. Troops pour along to the ferry—bread, medical equipment and newspapers as well.

THE FIRST BLOW.

On August 23, Germans struck their first blow at Stalingrad. More than 1,000 planes laid waste three quarters of the city, setting it ablaze. But when Germans took it for granted that Stalingrad was no more, the city rose for battle.

Germans dropped leaflets saying, "Surrender", they were ashes before they reached the ground. The city consumed them in its proud flames.

A ferry nears the bank. Waters narrow. Before us lies Stalingrad behind a curtain of fire. You cannot see the town. It seems incredible that any living thing could survive behind that curtain.

But from the flames green, red and white rockets and tracer bullets shoot upwards and blue beams of searchlights explore the sky. There are people there—fighting, struggling. On the eastern bank the next transport of troops is assembling. A tug-boat, "Abkhazets", brings up a huge barge. Men go aboard under fire. The Volga's sailors work tirelessly for the defenders. The Captain of "Abkhazets", Khlynin, has 26 years of experience behind him. Now he is fighting for his river. He has made 500 trips back and forth across the Volga with thousands of troops.

The Stalingrad Shores are black and charred. Floating wharves and rafts have been burned. All Hitler had massed against the whole front he has hurled against one city. The encounters are brief, violent and at close quarters. Hand to hand fighting in trenches lasts but a few minutes as a rule.

A DEFENDERS'S REPORT.

I met one of the defenders rushing to report: "we have broken into the first floor of the house. The second floor is held by Germans. They are keeping up heavy machine gun fire. But we shall kick them out before long."

A flimsy ceiling separates the Red Army men from the Germans. That ceiling is the front line. Defenders cling to each house as though they were a part of the fabric of its walls.

They shoot from gaping windows, from loft and basement. Shells dislodge brick after brick until nothing but a heap of debris is left. But even then men keep on fighting. **The house has gone but the battle continues. Ruins are held as desperately as the house. This is how Rodimtzev's guards-men won their fame.**

For over 10 days they held the narrow Stalingrad sector against two German assault Divisions and 100 tanks, while covering the delivery of arms to the defenders. Then they themselves rushed into attack. **In Stalingrad you are either a hero or a coward. There is no other choice. Cowards are given no quarter.** Sometimes it is easier for one intrepid fighter to break into a house than for a whole platoon of faint-hearted irresolute men.

SKILL NOT NUMBERS COUNTS.

The outcome of this battle is being decided not so much by numbers as by skill. With the approach of day, wave after wave of bombers sweep over the

city. A warden standing in the open, rings the bell—Stalingrad's alert. Somewhere nearby a mine explodes and we are nearly blinded by the swirling sand. A second later, we raise our heads cautiously. The warden is lying flat on the ground. People rush to his assistance but by the time they reach him he has scrambled to his feet and is standing erect still ringing his bell—with his left hand this time. His right hand is wounded.

Typical of the people of this city is an old ferry man whose boat was hit by a bomb on one night during its trip across the Volga. Men jumped into dark waters. Among them was a young Lieutenant whose overcoat soaked with water dragged him down. The old ferryman grabbed him by the collar and pushed his own life belt towards him with the words: **" Take it and keep afloat ". The Lieutenant silently pushed it away. " You are a fool ", yelled the old man. " My hands have been blown off. I am old and can't do much. But you can still fight. Hold on and defend Stalingrad. "**

And he paddled off with one arm and vanished in the darkness.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

14—11—42 to 20—11—42.

French North Africa.—On November 11 under the orders of Admiral Darlan hostilities ceased between the Allied Forces and French North AFRICA. Allies have occupied BOUGIE, east of ALGIERS and a hundred miles from TUNIS, as well as ORAN, RABAT and CASABLANCA. At ORAN the French forces have joined the U. S. troops. The Eastern task force is consolidating in the direction of TUNISIA and the Western task force in ALGIERS. BONA was occupied on November 13 and the Allied Forces, 90 per cent British, under General Anderson are heading towards the great naval base of BIZERTA.

German troops breaking through Vichy FRANCE on November 11 near CHALONIS SUR SAÓNE occupied LYONS, MARSAILLES and other towns in the Mediterranean coast in succession, while the Italian troops landed troops in NICE and BASTIA (CORSICA). TOULON though not occupied is in a state of siege. Darlan has asked the Naval Commander-in-Chief at TOULON to bring his fleet to AFRICA; but the Commander has preferred to renew his allegiance to Pétain. German fighter-planes and air-force troops have landed at EL ALOUINA air-port in TUNIS and at SIDI AHMED air port in BIZERTA, ferried from SICILY. TUNISIA is becoming the key point of the struggle. Advanced British units have already come into contact with the enemy. British aircraft based on MALTA are taking a leading part. Field-Marshal Rommel, fleeing from LIBYA has reached TUNISIA.

In the Western Mediterranean, infested by the U-boats, the Royal Navy maintains control. A great U-boat hunt is in progress. On Sunday, according to a MADRID correspondent a naval battle was in progress with the Italian Fleet. On November 15 GENOA had a 1,000 lb-bomb raid from the R. A. F.

Libya.—The remnants of the Afrika Korps continue to flee. There has been no battle as the enemy is content to retreat at any cost. He is being hit all the way by the R. A. F. and the British armoured cars. In succession, one after another TOBRUK, BARDIA, SIWAGAZA and MARTUBA have fallen and the Axis forces are retiring on JEDABAYA. EL. AGHEILA may be their last stand, if they stand at all. According to the latest news BENGHAZI has fallen

Russia.—Fighting continues at STALINGRAD, north-east of TUAPSE and south-east of NALCHIK. The enemy has made no progress in any of these sectors. One significant feature of the STALINGRAD battle is the absence of tanks.

Solomons.—The second naval battle fought on November 13 for the SOLOMONS has ended in a great Allied victory. The Japanese have lost 23 warships consisting of a battleship, 5 cruisers, 5 destroyers and 12 transports. One more battleship and six more destroyers were damaged.

New Guinea.—Australian Forces, aided by the Americans have driven the Japanese from OVIVI, GORARI, ILIMO and WAIROPI and have crossed the Kumusi River. Mac Arthur is in the field, personally directing the operations.

North Pacific.—On Nov. 9 American planes raided Holtz Bay (ATTU Island) and KISKA.

Burma.—The R. A. F. made a series of attacks on shipping at AKYAB and dropped bombs along the water-front.

On Nov. 13, two motor-launches of the Burma Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve operating in Burmese waters were attacked by 6 Japanese bombers and 20 fighters, without result. The Japanese are burning and looting Burmese villages north-east of AKYAB.

China.—Japanese units retreating towards SUNKAI have been overwhelmed and are withdrawing to KUITI PAILI and SHAYUNG. They have also been repulsed near the Tamoshan mountains.

Miscellaneous.—1. The Kaiser shipyards established a new record on Nov. 17, when a naval craft was launched in 2 days, 23 hours and 40 minutes after laying the keel.

2. The Japanese have lost 6 aircraft-carriers to date: *Ryukaku* (Coral Sea–May 7); *Kasa* (MIDWAY—June 4–6); *Akagi* (MIDWAY); *Soryu* (MIDWAY); *Hiryu* (MIDWAY); and *Ryuzyo* (SOLOMONS—August 24).

3. An extensive revolt has broken out in CROATIA.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. Targets.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
9—11—42. Monday.		
EUROPE.		
NIGHT :—		
Military objectives in N.W. GERMANY.		
HAMBURG (Germany).		
NORTH AFRICA.		
Cencentration of Axis motor transport in the HALFAYA and SOLLUM Passes and on the escarpment west of SOLLUM (Egypt).		
BENGHAZI and TOBRUK (LIBYA).		
CAGLIARI (SARDINIA).		
ALGIERS, CASABLANCA and **ORAN.**		
RUSSIA.		
Air combats all over the Russian Front		
FAR EAST		
The docks at RANGOON (Burma).		
The air-field at HOLTZ BAY (Aleutians).		16 planes.
Cargo vessels at KISKA (Aleutians).		
Jap naval units and transports north of GUADALCANAR (SOLOMONS).		
10—11—42 (Tuesday).		
EUROPE.		
DAY :—		
The docks at LE HAVRE.		
Offensive sweeps over CHERBOURG and FECAMP (France).		
NORTH AFRICA.		
Axis motor transport near BARDIA and SOLLUM.		
The harbour at TOBRUK.		
Remnants of Rommel's army retreating along the coastal road.		
ORAN and **CASABLANCA.**		

Date Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Russian Front.			
FAR EAST.			
Enemy shipping at AKYAB.			
OVIVI (N. Guinea).			2 planes.
LAE and **SALAMAUA** (N. Guinea).			
KISKA (Aleutians).			
11—11—42 (Wednesday)			
EUROPE.			
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.			
NORTH AFRICA.			
The harbour at TOBRUK.			
BENGHAZI.			
The axis aerodrome at MARTUBA.			
CASABLANCA and **BONE.**			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats all over the Eastern Front.			
FAR EAST.			
Enemy position on GUADALCANAR (Solomons).			
5 enemy destroyers to the east of NEW GEORGIA (Solomons).			
The trail leading to BUNA (N. Guinea).			
Ammunition dumps and anti-aircraft guns in the SOPUTA area (N. Guinea).			
12—11—42 (Thursday).			
EURORE.			
U. Boats in the BAY of BISCAY.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies
12—11—42 (Thursday)—cont.				
	NORTH AFRICA.			
	Shipping at BENGHAZI and CANDIA (Crete).			
	Enemy columns retreating west of CAZALA.			
	Motor transport between DERNA and CYRENE.			
	The aerodrome at BONE and TUNIS.			
	The Axis troops landing near BIZERTA.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats all over the Eastern battle zone.			
	FAR EAST.			
	Enemy forces north of GUADALCANAR.			
	Jap forces between WAIROPI and BUNA.			
	BUIN (Solomons).			
13—11—42 (Friday).				
	EUROPE.			
	Canal barges, railway locomotives and other targets over HOLLAND and BRITTANY.			
	GENOA (Itlay).			
	NORTH AFRICA.			
	Shipping at BENGHAZI.			
	Enemy columns retreating west of GAZALA, EL AGHEILA, TUNIS.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats all over the Russian battle field.			
	FAR EAST.			
	Enemy forces in GUADALCANAR.			
	Enemy forces at WAIROPI (New Guinea).			
	The aerodrome at LAE (New Guinea).			
14—11—42 (Saturday).				
	EUROPE.			
	German submarine bases at LAPALLICE and ST. NAZAIRE Northern FRANCE.		No loss.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
	NORTH AFRICA.			
	Shipping at BENGHAZI.			
	Coastal area east of TOKRA.			
	Axis vehicles in the EL AGHEILA-JEDACAYA road.			
	The aerodrome at TUNIS.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes all along the entire RUSSIAN front.			
	FAR EAST.			
	The harbour at RABAUL (New Britain).			
	Landing ground at BUIN (Solomons), MANATUTO (Timor)			
15—11—42. (Sunday).				
	EUROPE.			
	Railways and other targets in the coastal districts of occupied FRANCE and BELGIUM.			
	GENOA (Italy).			
	NORTH AFRICA.			
	Shipping at BENGHAZI.			
	Axis forces retreating west of EL AGHEILA.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats all over the Eastern front.			
	FAR EAST.			
	Jap base at BUNA (New Guinea).			
	Jap forces retreating towards BUNA.			
	Enemy shipping at BUIN (Solomons).			
	Japs north of GUADALCANAR (Solomons).			
16—11—42 (Monday).				
	EUROPE.			
DAY:—				
	Railways and locomotives on the CHERBOURG Peninsula.			
	Ships and gun posts near the DUTCH coast.			
	Military objectives in western GERMANY.			
	A supply ship off the NORWEGIAN coast.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Allies
10—11—42 (Tuesday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air raid anywhere.		
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.		
	FAR EAST.		
	The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).		
11—11—42 (Wednesday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air attack at all.		
	RUSSIA.		
	TUAPSE and **STALINGRAD.**		
	FAR EAST		
	The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).		1 plane.
12—11—42 (Thursday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air raid.		
	RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD and **TUAPSE.**		
	FAR EAST.		
	The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).		
	Port MORESBY (New Guinea).		
13—11—42 (Friday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air attack anywhere.		
	RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD.		
	NORTH AFRICA.		
	ALGIERS and ORAN.		
	FAR EAST.		
	No information.		
14—11—42 (Saturday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air raid.		
	NORTH AFRICA.		
	ORAN and **BONE.**		
	RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD.		
15—11—42 (Sunday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air attack, the whole of the day.		
	RUSSIA.		
	Russian positions in STALINGRAD.		
	FAR EAST.		
	The aerodrome at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).		
16—11—42. (Monday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air raid anywhere.		
	RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD and **TUAPSE.**		
	FAR EAST.		
	No information available.		

SIDE LIGHTS.

BELLS OF VICTORY. At long last, after 29 months of silence since DUNKIRK, on November 15, from the Scottish Highlands in the extreme north of BRITAIN to DOVER in the south,

from every church, *blitzed* or *unblitzed*, wherever a belfry still stands, rang the Bells of Victory in joy and thanksgiving for the great success that has been vouchsafed in the African Desert. Some of these very bells had rung before, long ago, when the Spanish Armada was scattered on the sea and when Napoleon was beaten at WATERLOO, the bells that in the long period of the Island story had rung the faithful again and again to pray and the brave to arm. On November 15, harvest-bell and gleaning bell, seeding-bell and market-bell from every village and hamlet, all joined in the joyous chorus and, thanks to the B. B. C., thousands upon thousands of homes in INDIA heard these sounds of victory and rejoiced.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky
* * *
Ring out the old, ring in the new
Ring happy bells.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind
* * *
Ring in redress to all Mankind
* * *
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

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A NAVAL VICTORY. The naval engagement fought off the SOLOMONS on November 13 has proved a great Allied victory. 23 Japanese warships have been sunk, destroyed or damaged. One battleship, 3 heavy crusiers, 2 light cruisers, 5 destroyers and 8 transports were sunk; 4 cargo transports were destroyed; and one battleship and 6 destroyers were damaged.

Col. Frank Knox has stated ' The U. S. has clearly won ' ' Round Two ' of the battle for the SOLOMONS but it must not be forgotten there may be ' Round Three '.

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ROMANCE. The brilliant amphibian operations in French North AFRICA–we mean, the American and British landings bring back the days of romance. It is now revealed that the campaign, conceived within two weeks of PEARL HARBOUR was matured for months in perfect secrecy. President Roosevelt himself selected the African coast as best suited to American intervention in the western theatre. While preparations were being made a secret Mission landed in North AFRICA, by different routes, in order to ward off suspicion and by surface craft, submarine and air. They met the local French leaders in a lonely house somewhere on the coast, with a lamp placed at a window to serve as a signal. When the moment for action came more than 500 vessels convoyed by 350 warships took part in the landing and not a man was lost, in spite of U-boats. Hitler was completely fooled. Perhaps he felt that a blow was falling but he could not tell from where or when. His lieutenants also misled him, by exaggerating the importance of the U-boat. Hitler, let us hope, is now a sadder man, though not yet a wiser.

CASTING MUD. The Axis is busy casting mud on the opponents. BERLIN and TOKYO call the recent landings 'aggression', 'in disregard of International Law' of 'Pacts and Agreements.' The world knows that the British and American forces in N. AFRICA are now engaged in the liberation of their French ally who has been temporarily knocked out of the fight, and that it is, to say the least, vastly different from aggression. We say that the charges come with ill-grace from GERMANY of whose banditry in the last three years an interminable list may be given. It includes at least two instances of the violation of the Armistice terms—the earlier annexation of ALSACE-LORRAINE and the present overrunning of occupied FRANCE. JAPAN is equally guilty before International Law, as the violater of the neutrality, the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of French INDO-CHINA, THAILAND and last but not least, of CHINA.

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WHITEWASHING. The recent happenings in N. AFRICA and RUSSIA are evidently not to German liking. It is now her turn to taste defeat and withdrawal, rout and ruin—but BERLIN puts a face on it by calling Rommel's retreat 'glorious' and adding that the Allied booty consisted of 'some destroyed tanks' only.

But so far as is known the 8th Army has captured or destroyed 500 tanks, between 700 and 1,000 guns and 75,000 prisoners.

Again, BERLIN calls the failure at STALINGRAD a 'glorious achievement' because 'this long and heavy battle is going favourably for the German army, because the fighting power of the Soviet is being sapped, because the Soviet were throwing their last resources into STALINGRAD and because the German forces were thus being relieved of the necessity of fighting the Russians afterwards at MOSCOW or LENINGRAD.'

But the fact is that though it is now 12 weeks since the Germans appeared before STALINGRAD and nearly 6 weeks since Hitler publicly promised to take it, it now looks as if the Nazi troops would never get inside the city or if they did, would never get out of it alive.

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THE NEW WAR ZONE. War, it has been said, is a good teacher of Geography—and it may be added, it is one of History also. MOROCCO where the Americans have landed, together with ALGERIA and TUNIS, constituted the Dgerzira-El-Maghril or the Isle of the West of the Arab geographers and later, became the Barbary coast of romance. ALGERIA was the rendezvous of sea-robbers. Thanks to Lyautey, the French

Administrator, MOROCCO has now some of the best planned towns, outside EUROPE and AMERICA, for instance, CASABLANCA with its wide boulevards and sky-scrapers.

'Tunis is a Woman, Algeria is a Man and Morocco is a Lion', so goes an Arab saying. There are more Roman remains in TUNISIA than in all the rest of North West AFRICA. It has a climate of which Saneca once wrote: "It is the country where Romans die of old age only." BIZERTA, the port of TUNIS, lying on the borders of LIBYA is of great strategic importance. The Bey of TUNISIA is an absolute monarch under French protection: that is why recently President Roosevelt sent him a message 'for the privilege of the passage' of American troops through TUNISIA. Though clubbed with TUNIS under the common name of 'French African colonies', MOROCCO has its own ruler under a French Resident-General who takes his orders from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Northern ALGERIA, on the other hand, including ORAN, ALGIERS and CONSTANTINE is regarded as part of FRANCE itself, and is ruled directly by a Governor-General under the French Ministry of the Interior. The other French territories, that is, West and Equatorial AFRICA, like MADAGASCAR, are Colonies.

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FIGHTING FRENCH TERRITORY. A glance at the map of AFRICA will show, the immense Fighting French territory which extends from the borders of Italian LIBYA almost down to Portuguese West AFRICA, and from the Atlantic sea-board to within some 400 miles of the Nile. This huge tract (consisting of the five colonies of CAMEROON, CHAD, GABON, MIDDLE CONGO and UBANGA—SHERI) had declared for General de Gaulle in 1940. Below it lies the Belgian CONGO which is also fighting on the side of the United Nations to-day.

If Vichy North AFRICA also comes under American influence for the duration of the war it will be seen how LIBYA is completely hemmed in by Allied territory. To the east and south-east lie EGYPT and the Anglo-Egyptian SUDAN; to its south, Fighting French Equatorial AFRICA and the Belgian CONGO; and to its west, the French North African colonies of MOROCCO, ALGERIA and TUNISIA. To its south-west, however, lies French West AFRICA, still under Vichy control. But Allied bases in GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, the GOLD COAST and NIGERIA on the Atlantic coast lie on the southern fringes of this vast Vichy territory.

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A SECOND FRONT. I am 'not the one to be prodded. In fact if anything I am the prod', so said Mr. CHURCHILL on November 11 in the House of Commons. It was true

that RUSSIA had bled and was bleeding and urgent relief was called for. No one was more anxious than the Prime Minister to find the relief but it would have been improvident to attempt to open a second front *via* the Channel or the North Sea, with the enemy entrenched in force on the other side, and without adequate preparations. While therefore Mr. Churchill had been planning and preparing all the time he also told M. Stalin as early as June, in fact, he gave him a written document that though preparations for landing in 1942 were being made he could not make a promise. On the other hand, talks of a second front succeeded in deceiving the enemy, at any rate it pinned down to the PAS DE CALAIS 33 of his divisions, a third of his bomber force and any number of fighters, not to speak of 10 more divisions and 350 aircraft held down in NORWAY.

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GOOD HUNTING. General Montgomery has carried out his promise to hit the Germans and the Italians for a six. Beginning on October 23 he has by November 11 driven the enemy out of the land of the Nile till 'no German or Italian soldiers were left on Egyptian territory, except prisoners'. In three weeks the advance has been made over 300 miles and the following enemy divisions were annihilated :—

Panzer Army : The 15th Panzer Division, the 21st Panzer Division, 19th light division, 164th light division.

10th Italian Corps : The Brescia Division, Paira Division, and Folgore Division.

20th Italian Corps : The Ariate Armoured Division, Littorio Armoured Division, Trieste Division.

21st Italian Corps : The Tranto Division and Bologna Division.

Prisoners captured : 75,000.

As Montgomery told his men, the Germans are out of EGYPT but there are still some left in North AFRICA. 'There is some good hunting to be had in LIBYA. On with the task', he added.

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THE FOURTH INDIAN ARMY. In this glorious achievement the Fourth Indian Army has won its laurels. It may be recalled it was the same division which distinguished itself in Wavell's 1940 offensive and since then, in every other major African Campaign.

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LEASE-LEND. It is now known that a part of the fighting equipment in EGYPT was Lease-Lend material. It gave the 'cutting-edge' as it were, the weapons, to win the Victory.

Lease-Lend will also feed, clothe and arm the people in the French territories in North AFRICA where the American troops have landed. President Roosevelt has said, 'No one will go hungry, or without other means of livelihood in any territories occupied by the United Nations, if it is humanly within our powers to make the necessary supplies available to them. Weapons also will be supplied to them in order to hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis.'

As President Roosevelt pointed out on Nov. 15 the Axis is wrong in hoping that because the U. S. has put her armies into the field her supplies to the Allies would diminish. On the other hand, in the last four months, while arming and equpping her Expeditionary Force, now in North AFRICA she also sent out 2,713 million dollars of goods to the Allies, of which two-thirds helped to turn the tide of war in EGYPT and to hold the enemy in RUSSIA. In October alone 915 million dollars worth, against 643 million dollars for September had been shipped. Lease-Lend discussions for 1943 supplies have been concluded with all the Allies and President Roosevelt hopes that the supplies for 1943 will exceed those of this year.

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DARLAN. According to a B. B. C. message Darlan's status, as conferred by the American Commander-in-Chief is that of one responsible for the French interests in North AFRICA. But Pétain has disowned Darlan and Darlan has disavowed Pétain: Gen. de Gaulle also has disassociated himself from the arrangment. At the present stage it can only be said that Darlan's services for the restoration of order and confidence have been accepted by the Allied Command as a convenient *ad hoc* measure to meet urgent military and administrative requirements but they carry no commitments for the future. At the present moment military considerations must take precedence over the political and will count.

And Darlan's past career makes one hesitate. With Laval he shares the honour of being the most hated politician of FRANCE. He has no friends, a few admirers and many haters. His sycophancy to Hitler, though it did not earn him an admiralship in the New Order, helped him to a German decoration. Originally, an ardent advocate, with Reynaud and Mandel, for the removal of the French Government to AFRICA, he soon changed sides and joined the Pétain–Laval group in establishing a Government in VICHY and became stooge No. I of the Nazi invaders. Now he is a friend and 'guest' of the Allies in North AFRICA.

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LT. GEN. EISENHOWER, who is now in supreme command of operations in French North AFRICA comes of a German stock. His ancestors migrated to the U. S. in 1732, in protest against German

religious prosecution. He is now working hard to revisit his ancestral home as a conqueror.

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GEN. GIRAUD, who is now with the Allies in North AFRICA was quite recently a prisoner in GERMANY. His escape is still a matter of mystery; but this is not his first escape. Imprisoned, once before, by the Germans in 1914 he made his escape *via* HOLLAND to ENGLAND variously disguised as a butcher, a stable-boy, a coalman and a magician. He is a hearty German hater and an admirer of Gen. de Gaulle.

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GEN. JUIN, now commanding the Vichy Forces in North AFRICA like Darlan who has given bim the post is a Nazi puppet. He was released from a Nazi prison-camp in order that he might succeed Weygand who was not prepared to further Nazi schemes in North AFRICA.

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ADMIRAL SIR ANDREW CUNNINGHAM, now supreme commander of Allied naval forces supporting the operations in French North AFRICA was appointed six months ago to be the head of the British Admiralty Delegation in WASHINGTON, and this was parallel with the appointment of Gen. Eisenhower to LONDON as Commander-in-Chief of American forces in the European theatre of operations. This was a skilful long-term planning for the North AFRICAN campaign. The lull on the operational front in the last few months was a period of preparation. Admiral Cunningham is the hero of TARANTO and MATAPAN.

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SOUTH INDIA AND R. I. N. Our readers, we have no doubt, will be delighted with the following appreciation which has appeared in the *Times of India*.

'The small but efficient units of the Royal Indian Navy have attracted considerable attention recently. One of the pleasant surprises has been the excellent seaman-like qualities of the naval recruits coming from South INDIA, some of whom have been decorated for conspicuous service. This war has shattered the legend of 'martial races.' The youths coming from the South have proved themselves as good fighters as their brethren from the North.'

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FINLAND, evidently. is not in favour of Hitler's 'New Order'. Probably she has had enough of it and paid sufficiently for the privilege, in men and material. M. Fagerholm, her Minister

for Social Affairs said on Nov., 16 : 'FINLAND is not fighting for any European New Order. The Finnish people are democratic and no other régime suits us. We have no plans to create a Greater FINLAND.'

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RUBBER. The paramount need of rubber salvage by every household was explained by Sir James Marchant, the Director of Salvage and Recovery on Nov. 16 at LEEDS. He pointed out that 'eight elastic bands' from every home, for instance, would release enough rubber of suitable quality to supply 1,000 bombers with tyres and inner tubes, and that 50 tennis balls or 300 rubber tea-pot spouts were equivalent to the rubber needed for a dinghy. A pair of old Wellington boots was enough for a Mae West Jacket.

WAY OPENED FOR EARLY AXIS COLLAPSE.

M. Stalin.

November, 14.

The Anglo-American campaign in Africa has turned the military and political position in Europe radically in favour of the Allies, opening the way for an early collapse of the German–Italian Axis, by the elimination of Italy.

The American and British leaders are "first rate organisers" of the African campaign. I express my confidence that it will soon relieve German pressure on the eastern front. I give a pledge that the Russian army would carry out its part of war with honour.

The campaign in Africa means that the initiative has passed into the hands of the Allies and changes radically the political and the war situation in Europe in favour of the Anglo—Soviet—American coalition. The campaign undermines the prestige of Hitlerite Germany as the leading force in the system of Axis power and demoralises Hitler's allies in Europe.

The campaign has released France from her state of lethargy, mobilises against Hitler the forces of France, and provides a basis for building up an Anti-Hitler French army. The campaign creates conditions for putting Italy out of commission, and for isolating Hitlerite Germany, and finally it creates the prerequisites for the establishment of a second front in Europe nearer Germany's Vital Centres, which will be of decisive importance for organising Victory over Hitlerite tyranny.

INITIATIVE WRESTED.

General Smuts.

London, November 13.

The general run of the war points to a vast change in the Allies' favour.

For once we are beginning to see the crust broken. For once the initiative, on a very large scale, is wrested from the enemy, and I hope we shall maintain it.

Next year we have to take the offensive. We shall have to do it in more than one theatre and on the large scale our mechanical and human resources will permit.

In future we shall have to look to the human race as one large family. Any sectional effort in the long run must fail.

We do not scrap a good thing when we have it, and I don't think we shall scrap the League of Nations. The United States, Great Britain and Russia will have to undertake the lead.

1943 will be a great offensive year. If we can carry out our offensive programmes next year on an adequate scale, it may be possible to make this a 30 years war, starting in 1914 and ending in 1944.

1943 ought to see great blows struck, which may be the prelude to the end.

The present position in Cyrenaica, I suppose is that we shall probably by-pass all the peninsula, and it will not be many days before all that we had previously will be in our hands once more.

The Mediterranean is the door to all southern Europe and it gives the Allies new lines of approach and attack to Axis strongholds.

Now we have a much shorter sea line and North Africa becomes probably the best way by which to help Russia. You see what the immediate repercussions have been.

You see the immediate slackening of the attack against Russia. This move of ours solves a whole series of questions and it has a very far-reaching bearing on the whole Russian situation and the question of easing the almost unbearable strain upon Russia.

Without trying experiments, which might be awkward, if not impossible, in western Europe, we have, by this great flanking movement, made it possible to bring most substantial succour to Russia.

Furthermore, the opening of the Mediterranean will have a great effect on the Far East War. It can lead to the recovery of Burma and the removal of the Japanese constant threat to India. We can bring succour to China.

PAVING THE WAY FOR THE FALL OF THE AXIS.

President Benes.

London, Nov., 13.

I express the hope—if not the conviction—that the war is in its third and last period.

The first period ended with the German attack on Russia, the second lasted till now.

There will come in the not distant future another front in western Europe, a new unheard of Air offensive, new serious happenings in France and all occupied countries, and, finally, the fall of Germany and Italy.

WHAT UPSET THE GERMAN PLANS? STALINGRAD.

M. Maisky.

London, Nov., 14.

During the last six weeks, we have twice heard Hitler shout to the world that he would not capitulate. Why should be volunteer such a remarkable statement? Apparently, there is something rotten in the Third Reich, and gloomy forebodings begin to awaken in the head of the Fascist monster.

A fact of a really decisive character is the failure of the 1942 campaign in the east. What would have happened if Russia had been defeated this summer? Most probably by now it would have been the Germans, and not the British and Americans who would have descended on Africa, east and west. Huge German forces would have been gathering for the final assault on the shores of the Channel and the borders of India. What upset the German plans? I need say only one word—Stalingrad.

THE DANGER TO EGYPT HAS BEEN REMOVED.

Nahas Pasha.

Cairo.

I am sure the day of Triumph for the Democracies is near. The Axis forces have been driven from Egypt and pursued into Libya.

The danger to our country has been removed. The memory of the anxious hours through which Egypt, and her allies have passed, will strengthen their friendship, their alliance and their mutual confidence

AXIS MENACE TO ARABS REMOVED.

General Nuries Syyed, Iraq Premier.

Baghdad, Nov. 12.

Arabs in North Africa, as well as all Frenchmen in France and North Africa, including those officers and men who, in the performance of their professional duties, resisted the Allies must, in their heart of hearts, welcome the United Nations' landing in North Africa which has removed the Axis menace, so far as the Arabs are concerned.

Do not forget that Berlin and Rome, by radio and by agents, made lavish promises to the Arabs in North Africa till the collapse of France. Since then the Axis has completely ignored the Arabs and is only interested in exploiting them to secure man-power for the Reich. The Arabs have not forgotten or forgiven Axis duplicity, and I am certain that they and the French are hundred per cent behind the United Nations.

THE HOUR HAS STRUCK FOR ITALY'S LIBERATION.

Mr. Adolf A. Berle, U. S. Assistant Secretary of State.

New York, Nov., 14.

APPEAL TO ITALY.

These Fascist Masters in their turn have betrayed their country to the Nazi tyrants beyond the Alps and have sold you as mercenary soldiers to fight battles for Hitler.

Like all evil conceptions, the Fascist domination of Italy is at length destroying itself. As the march of dictatorship in Europe began in the Mediterranean, so also the march of Freedom has begun in the Mediterranean. The armies of the united Nations stand within gun shot of the Italian shore. In the truest sense, the armies under General Eisenhower are armies for the liberation of Italy.

No American seeks to destroy or impair the nationhood of Italy. When Italy is freed from her Fascist gangsters, and is able once more to speak to the world, the pledge of the United Nations will be redeemed.

This pledge does not contemplate a punitive peace. Its aim is justice, not revenge. The destiny of the Italian people rests in their own hands. The voice of the free Italy has been stilled for two decades. A convincing proof that Italy has repudiated the monstrous philosophies which have spread death, terror and pestilence throughout the world must be given by the Italians, who must drive out the traitors and foreigners who have led her to the ruin of destruction.

FOURTH PHASE OF MALTA BATTLE.

WE SHALL HIT THEM ON THE NOSE AND KICK THEM IN THE PANTS.

Air Vice-Marshal, Keith Rodney Park, Valetta, Nov. 13.

The Battle of Britain lasted five months. The Fourth Phase of the Battle of Malta, which was like a section of the Battle of Britain, was won in seven days.

We will make a job of the coming allied offensive, hitting the enemy on the nose, and then kicking them in the pants.

My sailing boat is being rigged for sailing at the end of next year. Germany will have been knocked out by then. Not necessarily Japan—that will follow.

'THE CALL OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER'.

***President Roosevelt**, on the Armistice Day,—Washington, Nov. 11.*

To-day our thoughts go back to the first World War. But this year our thoughts are also very much of the living present, and of the future we begin to see opening before us—pictures illumined by a new light of hope.

To-day Americans and their British brothers in arms are again fighting on French soil. They are again fighting against German Militarism, which transcends a hundred-fold the brutality and barbarism of 1918.

The Nazis of to-day—and their appropriate associates, the Japanese—have attempted to drive history in the reverse. They sought to conquer the world, and for a time seemed to be successful. They overran great territories, they enslaved, they killed.

But to-day we know they have conquered nothing. They face inevitable, final defeat. The forces of liberation are advancing. Britain, Russia, China and the United States roll rapidly at full strength.

The opponents of decency and justice have passed their peak and as a result of recent events, the United Nations' forces are being joined by a large number of fighting men of our tradional ally, France.

The American unknown soldier, who lies here did not give his life on the fields of France merely to defend his American home for a moment that was passing.

He gave it that his family, neighbour and all fellow Americans might live in peace in the days to come. American soldiers are giving their lives to-day in all continents, and on all seas in order that the dream of the unknown soldier may at last come true.

HIS MAJESTY'S TRIBUTE TO THE INDIAN ARMY.

Speech from the Throne—London, Nov. 11.

The Indian Army is growing in strength month by month and has displayed its historic valour upon many fields of battle. We are proud that more than a million men have already been voluntarily engaged in our Indian Land, Sea and Air Forces, and we place our full confidence in their courage and fortitude in the days of struggle that lie before them.

TECHNICAL TRAINING IN INDIA.

Altogether 250 boys in five batches, had been sent to England, under the Bevin Scheme and the sixth batch was on its way there. Of those trained under the scheme, 149 had returned to India, and 135 of them had already

been posted in various factories and work-shops, on wages representing an average increase of 165 per cent over their previous earnings, which had varied roughly between Rs. 30 and Rs. 100 a month.

Besides the Bevin Scheme, the Technical Training Scheme, started in July 1940, with the initial object of producing 3,000 semi-skilled tradesmen had now expanded so much, that the total number of trainers would be 70,000 by June 1943. Some 380 training centres under the scheme were working in India, with a total training capacity of 45,000 trainers.

A hundred technical experts had been obtained from England to run these institutions, and under these experts, 163 Indian trainers had so far passed out, who could take charge of instruction at the various centres. On September 30, some 32, 416 persons were undergoing training under the scheme and on the same date, 21,750 trainers had been enrolled, either in the Defence Services, Ordnance Factories or Civil Industry.

BRITAIN'S ROLE IN INDIA.

'THE MARVEL IS THAT SO MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN SUCH A SHORT SPACE OF TIME'.

Sir M. Azizul Haque, London, October 29.

A new spirit is in the air and all over India there is a growing tendency to take a realistic view of life.

We are trying to get a new harmony and a new synthesis to blend the past and the present and bring about a meeting ground of the East and the West. When that day comes, the British work in India will be as much an integral part of India's life as the Hindu and Muslim cultures have been in the past.

The British work had created a new social order. It had established municipal and rural self-governing bodies and developed industry to such an extent that India had been able to rise equal to the multiple needs of the war.

As I look at history, my feelings are those of gratitude for what has been done. The marvel is that so much has been accomplished within such a short space of time.

INDIAN WOMEN FOR MILITARY DUTIES.

EASTERN ARMY'S SCHEME.

Calcutta, Nov., 12.

Such jobs as height-finders, spotters, personnel for predictors, radio location and telephonists, are among those shortly to be undertaken by the women of India. In common with other parts of the country, the Eastern Army will carry out an intensive recruiting campaign to enrol thousands of women into the Women's Auxiliary Corps, which is forming a separate branch for this work.

Young women of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in England proved every bit as efficient and sometimes even more so at command post duties, as the men, who had nothing but praise for their behaviour under fire.

An outstanding feature of this was the history of the mixed batteries of the Royal Artillery, where men and women undertook routine training together, sharing, shoulder to shoulder, the responsibilities, joys and hardships, in defence of their country.

"TONNAGE."

It is very doubtful whether more than a small percentage of those who hear on the wireless or read in a newspaper that "an enemy supply ship of 5,000 tons has been sunk" have any very clear idea of just what the tonnage figures mean.

Originally "tonnage" was "tunnage",—a ship's capacity in the French wine trade for carrying so many tuns of wine—a tun occupying approximately 100 cubic feet. But as far as merchant ships are concerned, "tunnage" although now "tonnage" does not mean ton weight measurement.

The tonnage of 5,000 mentioned in what is known as gross tonnage—that is to say approximately the entire interior of the ship 100 cubic feet of which

represents one ton. The weight of cargo and other materials which the ship can support is a different matter—that is known as the dead weight. It is the number of 20 hundredweight tons (each occupying 35 cubic feet of space) which the ship can actually carry of cargo, water, stores and fuel.

If the *communiqué* were to give the dead weight of cargo ships (liners are another story) instead of their gross tonnage then landsmen would get a much better idea of the actual size of a ship.

Commemoration Of Civilian War Dead.

Records Being Compiled By Imperial War Graves Commission.

An Appeal To The Public.

The names of Civilians in India who become victims of enemy attack are to be commemorated by the Imperial War Graves Commission.

The Commission, which was established in Britain during the last War was originally concerned with the commemoration of members of His Majesty's Forces who gave their lives and of whom the greater number fell in foreign lands. For more than 20 years it has helped to keep their names a living memory. Now that war takes its toll of the non-combatant population as well, the Commission has been charged with a new duty—that of collecting the names of all civilians who become victims of enemy attack, so that their memory also may be preserved, for all time, side by side with those of the Fighting Services.

The Commission's duty extends to compiling records for every civilian subject under His Majesty's protection and suzerainty and every national of any territory mandated to His Majesty who has died, or may die, during the present war from war injuries, wheresoever sustained.

As regards the peoples of India, therefore, the Commission is concerned with all classes of civilian British, British Indian and Indian Nationals, whether residing in British India or in Indian States, and also with British Indians and Indians residing in countries outside India.

DETAILS TO BE RECORDED.

The following particulars will be recorded :—(1) Name ; (2) Permanent home address ; Religion and Caste or Sect. (3) Degrees, Honours and Decorations ; (4) Service, Service Number, Rank or Appointment (only in cases of members of Civil Defence Services); (5) Sex ; (6) Age ; (7) Son or Daughter, and Husband or Wife of (name and address), family details being added if desired ; (8) Nationality ; (9) Date and place of death ; (10) Date of incident causing death ; (11) Place of incident causing death ; (12) Place of burial or cremation ; (13) Other details (if desired).

APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

The Co-operation of the public is requested especially in regard to civilian Indian Nationals who die, or who have died, of War injuries outside the territories under the control of the Government of India. It is likely, for instance, that persons now residing in India have information regarding civilian Indian Nationals who died of War injuries in Burma.

Anybody who is aware of any British Indian or civilian Indian National who is definitely known to have been killed, or to have died of War injuries, outside territories under the control of the Government of India should get in touch with the local authorities in order that the necessary information may be recorded and sent to the Imperial War Graves Commission, through the Civil Defence Department and the High Commissioner for India in London.

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THE SECRETARY,

National War Front Bureau,

PUDUKKOTTAI. (South India.)

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXXII.

22–11–42	Municipal Office.	7.45 p.m.
,,	Alangudi ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Vadakadu ...	7.30 ,,
23–11–42	Annavasal ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Kilakkurichchi ...	7.30 ,,
24–11–42	Kulipirai ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Sundaram ...	7.30 ,,
25–11–42	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
25–11–42	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
,,	College A & B ...	10.15 ,,
,,	Ramachandra-puram.	7.00 p.m.
,,	Rayavaram ...	7.30 ,,
26–11–42	Malaiyur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Karambakkudi ...	7.30 ,,
27–11–42	Valaramanikkam.	7.00 ,,
,,	Embal ...	7.30 ,,

LECTURE CXXIII.

28–11–42	Municipal Office.	7.45 p.m.
29–11–42	Nirpalani ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Avoor ...	7.30 ,,
30–11–42	Karaiyur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Kilattanayam ...	7·30 ,,
1–12–42	Andakkulam ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Killanur ...	7.30 ,,
2–12–42	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
2–12–42	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
,,	College A & B ...	10.15 ,,
,,	Konnaiyur ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Melaveguppatti.	7.30 ,,
3–12–42	Vadavalam ...	7·00 ,,
,,	Sammattividuthi	7·30 ,,
4–12–42	Nartamalai ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Uppiliyakkudi ...	7·30 ,,

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

21—11—42	Vettamviduthi.
22—11—42	Embal.
23—11—42	Mullangurichchi.
24—11—42	Ramachandrapuram.
25—11—42	Rayavaram.
26—11—42	Kulipirai.
27—11—42	Pudukkottai.
28—11—42	Ponnamaravathi.
29—11—42	Tittanviduthi.
30—11—42	Konnaiyur,
1—12—42	Kudimiyamalai.
2—12—42	Kilanilai Puduppatti.
3—12—42	Alangudi.
4—12—42	Pappapatti.

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